

1 Cabrini: Anyway, well that's where the School of Nursing started. It was the, I was told
2 that it was in the top story of the building. Now did they tell you that the
3 legislators used to...?

4 *Smith: Well, I remember reading something about that, that the legislators used to stay*
5 *in St. Peters.*

6 **Tape Counter 027**

7 Cabrini: Used to hang around here. I know, the streets weren't paved. And rather than
8 walk downtown in the muddy streets to the hotels, they just stayed at St. Peters
9 when St. Peters had room. And I can imagine how the School of Nursing was
10 begun in those days. And, I wish I'd a had some of the material to show you
11 that... I wish you'd done this the Centennial Year, I could remember better.

12 *Smith: Well, it's better to do it now than to not get it done.*

13 Cabrini: I was really hip that year, because I looked up everything and I was still, I wasn't
14 removed from it. Yeah, when you get away, you forget these things. But, we
15 truly had a great school of nursing reunion. There were pictures too that I had.
16 But I turned them all, I think I sent them all to archives... No, well, I'm not sure
17 whether I gave them to archives or whether I think we used them at the
18 Centennial. And, I can't remember the name of the man that sort of rounded up
19 the uniform and the pin and all that.

20 *Smith: Yes, in the lobby when you first come in?*

21 Cabrini: The lobby, yeah.

22 *Smith: Uh huh.*

1 Cabrini: Okay, well that whole circle for the Centennial, was of history, it brought in the
2 School of Nursing. I mean the Professional School, three year school. I already
3 had a million artifacts, so it was really real great.

4 *Smith: Well, they had the nurses uniform framed, you know. They had the nurses*
5 *uniform on the wall, on that rotunda. They have the nurses uniform that's on*
6 *there and they have it framed.*

7 Cabrini: They still have that there?

8 *Smith: Yes.*

9 Cabrini: Okay, that was from the first graduate, and I knew her. I happened to meet her
10 and uh, well I still have a radio that she gave me.

11 **Tape Counter 052**

12 *Smith: Yes.*

13 Cabrini: And, she had some relatives, let's see, in the World Shop. Maybe it's not there
14 anymore, but it was up on the Westside. And she had some relatives who ran that
15 and I used to, you know go in, snoop around in there. And so, I met her and I
16 found out that she was the first graduate from there. And, then later on this quite
17 a, I can't remember his name. Anyway, he contacted that family and I guess they
18 still had her uniform and her pin. Is that still there?

19 *Smith: Uh hum. The pin is there too.*

20 Cabrini: Okay, that's good.

21 *Smith: Yeah, it's a great exhibit, because it has the timeline. As you walk around the*
22 *rotunda, it has the timeline from Mother Gamlin, Mother Joseph and the things*

1 *they did in the Northwest. St. Peter through it's revisions and they have the*
2 *uniform and some other things on the wall.*

3 Cabrini: I know for awhile, they turned it into somebody who had publicity.

4 *Smith: Public Relations Department?*

5 Cabrini: The, well I don't think you would call it that, but it was uh more literature, current
6 literature and stuff like that. And I haven't been there for awhile now, so I don't
7 really know what the name of it... That's what, when I left about three years ago,
8 they brought me here by ambulance, you know, expected me to die.

9 *Smith: Well, you look amazingly well Sister.*

10 Cabrini: Yeah, I just decided that if I had to hang around, I wasn't going to sit in a chair.

11 *Smith: That's right.*

12 Cabrini: So anyway, uh, I wanted you to know about that and get into that, if you haven't
13 already. Because I hadn't told you about it. And also, it, another person who has
14 been hanging around for a long time and he's really into the medical history, the
15 doctor history. Uh, he is Dr. Reed Ingham(?), have you ever heard of him?

16 **Tape Counter 077**

17 *Smith: Uh huh.*

18 Cabrini: Okay, I understand he's going way back and bringing all of the doctors up to way
19 back to when.

20 *Smith: Oh, that will be very interesting to get a hold of him, yeah.*

21 Cabrini: And so, I was going to suggest that you to him.

22 *Smith: Yeah. He would have some good perspective on the Schools of Nursing, right?*

1 Cabrine: Well, maybe yes, and maybe no. He wasn't too active in the School of Practical
2 Nursing. That, some of them didn't like that idea, you know that was "dumb".
3 And uh, I remember I wrote up a sort of a pamphlet once, telling how practical
4 nurses came to be. It was, you know just about 2 or 3, 2 pages or something like
5 that. Because everybody was so confused. Well, you see, I graduated from
6 nurses training in 1940, and the, right after that, well we all - we could work in
7 Seattle, the big city of Seattle if we wanted to. So we weren't going to stay in
8 Yakima town when we could come to the big city. So, Providence was short of
9 nurses, and we all came... I mean, almost the whole class of 13 from Yakima
10 came to Providence Hospital. Well, I knew the Director of Nurses with the
11 School of Nursing, who was Sister Zephern(?). And Sister Zephern, had her
12 library was in a mess. Somebody had donated a bunch of books for Providence
13 School of Nursing. And, since I'd done a little bit of library work, she asked if
14 I would take on that job. And, I could arrange my hours, and then be the
15 librarian. So, I lived at the School of Nursing, the Providence School of Nursing.
16 And then I thought, gee I haven't got enough to do here, just a job. And so I said,
17 well I want to get a degree, and a Bachelor's at least. I checked out Seattle U and
18 I checked out the University of Washington. Well, I could have gotten 16 hours
19 in the quarter at the University of Washington for \$28 a quarter.

20 *Smith:* *Oh my.*

21 Cabrine: At that time. But I thought of the trip over there, you know. And then I went to
22 Seattle U, and Father

1 **Tape Counter 108**

2 McGoldrick(?) was the registrar at that time, I guess they called him. We used to
3 call him Slick McGoldrick. He could talk faster, he could talk anybody into
4 anything. And I talked to him for awhile, he made it seem so logical that I might
5 as well go full time to college and work.

6 *Smith: And work full time?*

7 *Cabrini:* Yeah. So I, before I knew it, I was signed up. And it only cost \$35 and it was
8 just down the hill too from...Providence School of Nursing. So, I went on that
9 way and I said, well, what have I done? And so, well I'll try it and so, I tried it
10 for a quarter and that was, it was a breeze because so much of it was repetitious
11 from my three year School of Nursing. They only gave you one hour, one year
12 of credit you now, in College. Well anyway, and I had a, oh, this is kind of
13 funny. I had a roommate and she was PG'ing in the surgery, and it took her about
14 three months to do that. Well, she had to get up early to get over to surgery at
15 6:30 or something like that. And, I didn't have to go until about 7:30. So, she
16 wouldn't wake herself up. And she expected me to set the alarm, and wake her
17 up.

18 *Smith: Oh, how nice.*

19 *Cabrini:* So I figured out, well you know, Betty, you like coffee awfully well. And, so I
20 rigged up the overhead light with a cord and a percolator and a string down so
21 that all she had to do was kind of wake up and pull the string when my alarm
22 went off and then I didn't have to get up. Well anyway, that went on. Betty

1 responded to that beautifully. When the alarm would go off, Betty in her sleep
2 would (whoop) pull the string, the percolator would go on and then by the time
3 it started to perk and smell, she'd wake up. I thought that was just kind of a
4 funny, funny sight. Well anyway, I worked, it worked out so well that I decided
5 well, I might as well keep on going to college. And, let's see that started out in
6 1940-41. Then 1942, the war came. And of course no nurse was wasted in the
7 library. And, so then I

8 **Tape Counter 140**

9 worked, started working swing shift on the floor. I worked six hours. Eye, ear,
10 nose and throat principally, medical uh no, surgical nursing and also part of it was
11 eye, ear, nose and throat, specialty. In fact, I worked for Dr. Brian T. King. He
12 and Dr Rosalini, they worked together in Seattle. Brian T. King was a very good
13 eye specialist. And so, we, well I spent most of my time, I spent all of my three
14 years that I was working for a degree at Seattle U and along the line, I said well
15 I'm pretty strong in science and so forth. I might as well just take another science
16 or so. Then I'd get all the prerequisites for an internship in medical technology.
17 And that, well you know, that just kind of works into nursing. And so, I took all
18 those... One quarter, I was taking three chemistries. That was a lot. And
19 working too. But anyway, I made it and I graduated from Seattle U in 1953 then.
20 But, to back up a ways... I didn't really finish my nursing education with you, on
21 the school, in the three year school.

1 *Smith:* *Right, I think we left off starting at where...You just started at St. Elizabeth's. You*
2 *had saved your money..*

3 *Cabrini:* *And I got into nurses training, yeah. And, well those three years were rather*
4 *eventful too, because I was 10 years older than anybody else in my class, because*
5 *see I was over the hill. I didn't get started until... I was busy taking care of my*
6 *mother, taking care of the ranch and all that. Well I finally sold the ranch*
7 *anyway, believe it or not. A 5-acre ranch, with a house and buildings.*

8 *Smith:* *And orchards too, right?*

9 *Cabrini:* *Yes. But, I had a renter who was very good and took care of that. So, I didn't*
10 *have to worry about it too much, you know, the hands on thing. I guided it and*
11 *all that. But finally, I was able to sell it. But, I understand*

12 **Tape Counter 174**

13 *that things were so bad. I put it in the hands of the real estate agent, and I guess*
14 *it really wasn't such a bad job because, bad deal, because I got it was less than*
15 *\$2,000 for the five acres, with the house and barn and all of that. Well anyway,*
16 *I heard later that was during really down in depression. Well, there was one man,*
17 *they were telling me about it - one man had an acreage and the man owed \$400*
18 *a month. And, rather than and he couldn't afford to pay it. So, the man that*
19 *owned the place just gave it to him, just gave him the acreage. So, I guess it*
20 *wasn't so bad. Things were bad during the depression, and you're too young to*
21 *have lived that.*

22 *Smith:* *You were working with at St. Elizabeth's weren't you during the depression?*

1 Cabrini: Yeah, part of it. That's the thing. And I wanted to tell you too, you know, when
2 you think of what kids get today. When I got my check from the Cannery, I used
3 to just endorse it and give it to my Dad, so that he could pay the mortgage.

4 *Smith: You were a good kid.*

5 Cabrini: I know, but kids did that. We were, we felt responsible you know for well, keep
6 a roof over our heads. I feel that if more people did things like that instead of
7 what they do today, they wouldn't be homeless.

8 *Smith: A little better value system.*

9 Cabrini: Yeah, and sacrifices, sacrifice. I didn't get to go to a movie and do things like
10 that. When I was a kid, I had to make my own fun and we made our own fun.
11 Sometimes it wasn't as glorious, as glamorous. We didn't wear the clothes that
12 we do nowadays. But, boy I can tell you about another time that times were
13 really tough. This was when I was in high school, and it was the year of the red
14 flannel blouse and the beaver hat. Well, in those days, it would probably cost \$1
15 for the blouse and \$1 for the hat, but I didn't have anything. Well the bachelor
16 down the way, about a quarter of a mile from our place, he had an apple orchard.
17 And, he didn't even bother to pick them. They just fell on the ground. And so,
18 he

19 **Tape Counter 211**

20 said, "Francis"... He didn't like the vinegar on the, you know the rotten apples.
21 He wanted them picked up, he wanted that picked up before they got rotten. And
22 so, he says, "You know Francis, if you want to pick up those apples, you can have

1 all of them and your Dad can take them into the Vinegar Works". That was in
2 Yakima. And so, I picked up and my Dad helped me. And, all the heavy work,
3 you know, hauling. And so, we picked up that 10-acre, all of the apples on the
4 ground and sent them to the Vinegar Works. And I got \$10 out of that deal. It
5 was enough to get me a beaver hat, a red mini blouse and I think... Oh yes, and
6 then it was right after Christmas and I knew about the after Christmas sales. I
7 was still in high school, but I knew about them. And so, I went into Barnes in
8 Yakima. I wanted a coat too. So, I got a coat. It was marked down of course,
9 for \$4.95. Was I decked out that year. My beaver hat, my new coat and the red
10 mini blouse.

11 *Smith: But you worked hard for it too.*

12 *Cabrini: Oh, I worked for it, but that was okay. Well, let's see now to go on... well I told*
13 *you the war came along. Well, the guys were busy at Boeings. They worked*
14 *nights and went to school in the day time. And the girls if they, you know if they*
15 *had any kind of a job. And jobs were easy to get in those days. They were short*
16 *of help. Everybody was involved with the war.*

17 *Smith: Right.*

18 *Cabrini: Well anyway, so I kept my nose to the grindstone. Finally, I graduated from*
19 *college, got the degree - Bachelor's. And then, I wanted to do that year's*
20 *internship and I had been... I'll have to tell you another little story about my*
21 *nurses training. I wanted to have experience in a private hospital and a public*
22 *hospital, county hospital, state hospital. And I made it.*

1 *Smith: To compare the different...?*

2 Cabrini: I wanted to do it. So, I went to for the year's internship in medical technology,
3 I applied to the University of California Hospital in San Francisco and

4 **Tape Counter 250**

5 surely you know, they'd take you. They needed a couple of feet and a couple of
6 hands and a head. And so I got there, and that was quite an experience that year.
7 That was my last year as a lay person. It was great you know. Really, it was lots
8 of fun doing it. And then, the experience in San Francisco and the learning, the
9 knowledge that you got in San Francisco was really great. And, I'd get lonesome,
10 but I'd go across the Bay. We could take the train across the Oakland Bay Bridge
11 then for 10 cents. Then I could go over and see my friends at Providence Hospital
12 and in so on and it really was pretty nice. And I made some friends down there
13 too. Especially, a couple of Chinese friends who were a young lady, a course that
14 I was taking.

15 *Smith: They lived in China Town in San Francisco?*

16 Cabrini: At China Town, yeah they were very well acquainted with China Town. So, they
17 took me down there sometimes, to dinner and so forth. And I used to make
18 excursions on my own out of San Francisco, down by way of buses. It was so
19 safe in those days. And you know, you had the guys that were in the army and
20 you know, if you could handle them, it was okay. And, you weren't afraid to get
21 shot when you poked your nose out of the door. And so, anyway. And I used to
22 make, I had a potato chocolate cake recipe and it was really good. And I used to

1 put, it made four big layers and it, I made a chocolate fudge icing and it was
2 good.

3 *Smith: Sounds good Sister.*

4 *Cabrini:* And, the custom was at the hospital there, at the University Hospital in San
5 Francisco, the custom was if it was your birthday or your anything, you were to
6 throw the party.

7 *Smith: You brought the cake.*

8 *Cabrini:* So, I just, ordinarily, the standard refreshment was a Blums cake. Of course, I
9 didn't have any money to buy a Blums Cakes, so I made two potato chocolate
10 cakes and they were big. And I had to put, I had to make two of them, because
11 whenever word got around that they were in the party, they were at the party, we
12 had all the doctors from around come in. And let's see, we made our own ice
13 cream too, I think. You learn to do things with a lab. They didn't have any dishes,
14 so we used the sterilized petri dishes. You know, for cultures.

15 **Tape Counter 295**

16 We used them for dishes, for ice cream and so forth. And some kind of, those
17 blades, the wooden blades for specimens. We used those for spoons. It was good
18 fun, but it was there that I you know, the war, everything. I began to feel the
19 emptiness, you know things. And I was 30, 32 I guess. And I began to
20 remember. I used to visit the Franciscans. They had a monastery there, (quite
21 a gift), and uh, so I began to think about vocations again. And, well at that time,
22 we could have had almost any job we wanted to because they were so short of

1 people. So anyway, I'd been thinking about that, and I had... I forgot to tell you
2 that I, very shortly after high school, I did enter the Community for about seven
3 months, I think it was.

4 *Smith: I think you mentioned that, but I had a question about what Community it was.*

5 *Cabrini: This, Providence.*

6 *Smith: And it was in Tacoma?*

7 *Cabrini: Well, my mother was in Tacoma, lived in Tacoma and she was working... This*
8 *was after my father's death, and she was working for the Sisters there as*
9 *housekeeper. And my sister was staying with her there, and well that really*
10 *doesn't mean vocation. Before that, I can't remember if I told you that very*
11 *shortly after high school, I got a job - there weren't any jobs you know. But, the*
12 *Sisters found a job for me at St. Peters in Olympia. Now, that would have been*
13 *about 1930, around in there. The switchboard and elevator. Did I tell you that?*

14 *Smith: Yes, you mentioned that.*

15 *Cabrini: Okay. And, from there, they, I got the idea that I'd like to enter. And then I went*
16 *back and spent Christmas with my mother in Tacoma, and from there I entered*
17 *Sisters of Providence, and I stayed in about 8 months, 7 or 8 months I guess it*
18 *was. Did I tell you about that?*

19 *Smith: Uh huh, and that's when she got ill. That's when she had her stroke?*

20 *Cabrini: When she had that stroke, when I had... Okay. I wasn't sure whether I mentioned*
21 *that or not. Well anyway, I'll go back to...*

22 **Tape Counter 336**

1 *Smith: At San Francisco.*

2 *Cabrini: ...finishing at San Francisco. I took the national exam and I got the EMT and I*
3 *could have had a job any place. MTASCP was what they called it. And, still*
4 *bothered, and so, I entered when I was 33 again. And of course, I had two*
5 *professions then really, so it wasn't too hard to find a job even though I was an*
6 *old lady.*

7 *Smith: But that must have been rather hard, because you were older than a lot of the*
8 *other...*

9 *Cabrini: Uh, that's true and then to start with all of that kid stuff. And, they were a lot*
10 *more grown up now than they were in those days. But anyway, I went through*
11 *the noviate, but we had an earthquake, I remember that. I remember the*
12 *earthquakes.*

13 *Smith: Oh, and this was in San Francisco?*

14 *Cabrini: No, that was here.*

15 *Smith: Up here? There was an earthquake up here?*

16 *Cabrini: Yeah, one of them. I can't remember, well let's see that was, I made profession.*
17 *I made profession in '46 as a Sister of Providence. That was it. So it would have*
18 *been some time during the 40s that we had that earthquake. And then there was*
19 *another one in '49 too, so. Well, we went through the noviate, you know, doing*
20 *the usual things. And, usual nonsense I thought some of it.*

21 *Smith: Well, I'm sure you did, at 33.*

1 Cabrimi: Well, I could tell you some real good ones. And, then I said... Well, my first job
2 as a Sister, I, there was a fairly lovely looking Sister, a beautiful Sister, and she
3 took care of... We had a Monsignor). Well, the Priests had a special apartment
4 over there at that time. And we all lived in St. Vincent's. And uh, the Sister that
5 was taking care of him, she was tall and beautiful, and she left the Community.
6 She was professed and everything. And I said, this came out just right. I says,
7 "I'll bet I get the Monsignor for a patient". They said, "Oh no, you're not 40 yet.
8 You won't get it". You know, you had to be 40 to take care of a Priest.

9 *Smith: Oh. It's one of the rules, huh?*

10 **Tape Counter 377**

11 Cabrimi: Yes. You know, I said, "I bet I can get the Monsignor. They haven't any other
12 nurses to fill the... that are free". And, sure enough, I got Monsignor, and I was
13 named for the Sisters infirmary, which was on the fifth floor over there at that
14 time. It was an altogether different building. Well anyway I, he looked me up,
15 I remember he looked me up and down. And I thought, gosh, you know I was as
16 good looking as Sister Charles was. Will that make any difference to him? Will
17 he think I can't do it because... And he says, "Can you do feet?" Feet?! You
18 know, lower extremities. And I says, "Well, yeah I think I can". See, I've had
19 a lot of trouble with my own feet. See, I'm flat-footed and back in those days,
20 everything was arches, arch supports. Well, with the arch supports, I got corns
21 and bunions and callouses and everything. And I used to go over to a Yakima to
22 a special podiatrist, who... And I told him, I says, "You know, I know you could

1 do a good job", so he says, "You don't, go to a podiatrist in Seattle, then me".
2 And, he kind of showed me how to do it. And so I kind of learned what he was
3 trying to tell me. And I decided, well I don't have any arches. And the Indians,
4 I grew up with the Indians and they wore moccasins. And I got my start with the
5 Indians. And, I don't see why I should have to wear arches, arch supports. So,
6 I got, started getting flats and my feet healed up and I... Well I had, I really had
7 plenty of corns and bunions, so I learned on my own feet how to take care of feet.
8 So I said, "Well, I think I can do that Monsignor". And so I washed his feet and
9 I pruned them, why (slap), and he says... I was in. After that, that was it. And
10 after that, I could take care of any part of his anatomy. It was a good thing,
11 because he got cancer of the rectum, and in those days (you're young enough too
12 appreciate this), nobody knew what to do. Why you, when you got cancer you
13 just, you suffered through. And this was 50 years ago. But, I happened, when I
14 was a Probie in my School of Nursing, I had a patient who had cancer of the
15 rectum and the doc, and Dr. Lynch in Yakima ordered 10 minims of tincture of
16 Opium in 10 CC's of water, and give that rectally. And that relieved that man.
17 Oh, nobody seemed to understand you know in those days. But, I went to Sister
18 Raphael, the pharmacist for the year, and I had known her previously. She
19 worked in the pharmacy in Olympia back in the days when I was there. And I
20 said, "Sister, I know what to do for him, but I don't know how to get what I
21 need". And, I said, I told her what I needed and she kind of looked at me and she
22 says, "Well, you know, maybe I can steal it. So she slipped me a little

1 **Tape Counter 433**

2 bottle of tincture of Opium, and I mixed it up and I gave it to him. That relieved
3 him, and it was just like heaven you know, the poor man. I felt so sorry and I
4 just happened to know from my nurses training when I was a Probie. Those good
5 old remedies.

6 *Smith:* *Yes.*

7 *Cabrini:* And so, we were friends. Well about that time, they needed somebody to work
8 nights at Providence in Portland. I was around here, it wasn't quite a year. And
9 I also took care of the Sisters on the Infirmary Ward. I wasn't alone, but I worked
10 with a Sister up there. And, there were some characters, I could tell you about.
11 Well anyway, we got changed to Providence in Portland, and I says, "I'll bet I get
12 night duty. They don't have a night nurse now, she quit". So, I got night duty.
13 She said, "Oh, you don't get night, you aren't old enough to get night duty". Well,
14 I got night duty.

15 *Smith:* *Where there's a need.*

16 *Cabrini:* Yeah, and expediency. And so, I, I was night nurse for about a year. And then
17 they decided I should go to Olympia. And I know I worked with another Sister
18 there, Sister Carmelina for awhile in the School of Nursing and I can't remember
19 just exactly what all... Uh just, I can't remember that transition exactly, but those
20 were the days when Olympia was tide flats. Where Capitol Lake is, it was all tide
21 flats. There was a house down on the tide flats, and well there were homes. So,
22 somebody, some patient, I guess it was a patient gave to the Sisters that house

1 down on the tide flats to pay a bill. And of course, the Sisters really didn't have
2 any use for it, but anyway it was there. And the old hospital was, it was situated
3 beautifully you know. If you haven't been there, you ought to go see it.

4 *Smith:* *You're talking about the second one, not the very first one?*

5 Cabrini: Not the one on Capitol, but the one on 4th Avenue and I can't remember the other
6 street.

7 *Smith:* *I know where it is.*

8 Cabrini: It's low cost housing, yeah. Well anyway, there was a, we let a family live down
9 there. It was supposed to be the man, the dead man's family. Somehow, the
10 spell....

11 **Tape Counter 481**

12 The father of this family, it was Papa, Mama and three children, kids. Well,
13 everybody lived in that house down there, the cats and the dogs and the chickens
14 and the family. And we used to go down there once in awhile and bring them
15 food or something like that. That's how I got to know them. And, I'm still in
16 contact with one of the boys that grew up in that house.

17 *Smith:* *Oh really?*

18 Cabrini: Way back. And that's an interesting story too with the Sisters of Providence.
19 Well, let's see, I stayed that way for a while. And I was with the Sisters just a
20 few months. She was the Director, but she didn't have a Bachelor's and the State
21 Board was clamping down on them, you know, a lot in those days. And so,
22 because I had a degree, not that it meant... But anyway, I finally, I got the job as

1 Director of Nurses. I was sent from night duty out in Portland (if I remember
2 correctly), to St. Peter Hospital and I was to be the Director of Nurses, just like
3 that. And, you know, I had sewed for the nurses and I had fed them, and I'd been
4 a housemother. And I lived through it, but that's the way you did it in those days.
5 And then, they decided because there... I think that at one point, there were 19
6 doctors on the staff, the medical staff. And they weren't bringing in enough
7 patients. I mean, you know with the specialties. for the students to get enough
8 experience. And so, they decided to close the three year school. Well about that
9 time, they needed a... Practical Nursing School... There were no hospital schools
10 of practical nursing in the State of Washington, hospital schools. They were all
11 vocational trade schools; there might have been one or two college ones. Yeah,
12 I know the name of that Centralia College, I think had one. But, it was kind of...
13 I think there were two in the State of Washington. And, everything was trade.
14 Union men were what you do to nurses, how you educate nurses Union wise.
15 And, the nurses, the RN's you know, they really wanted a school, a hospital school
16 of practical nursing because it was... They figured it needed a softer touch, you
17 know, women's touch. And so, I was given a job and no, nothing to go by.

18 *Smith: No guidelines.*

19 **Tape Counter 537**

20 Cabrini: I was supposed to set up the School of Practical Nursing. Well, I got up a...
21 Well, in those days, even the minimum requirements were nebulous. Well I got
22 acquainted with the, well with both the executive secretary from the professional

1 division and also the executive secretary of the practical nursing division. Well
2 that helped a little bit when I had to finish the three year school. I really got
3 acquainted with Louise Allison, who was the executive secretary of the
4 professional division at that time. And I don't know if you've ever heard of her...

5 *Smith:* *No.*

6 *Cabrini:* She must be dead by now. But she was a brain. I tell you, I, she was the most
7 prodigious writer, and she had a secretary that really went along with them. Well,
8 I let her know that I was doing this Board(?), and she just took me under her wing
9 and I tell you she taught me more about... Well she, we were having an
10 examination of the school, you know for accreditation.

11 *Smith:* *Right.*

12 *Cabrini:* And it was, and she said, I know she said, "Well, you have a nice library here and
13 (we don't have?)". There was old books in it, but anyway, it was full of books.
14 And she says, "Well now, do you have an office for your secretary?", and I says,
15 "Well, no we really don't". She says, "Well, you do have a secretary don't you?",
16 and well yeah, we have somebody at the catalog books". "Well, where does she
17 sit?" "Well, she sits in the store room, she's got a typewriter there", and she says,
18 "Well, that's her office, so I put that down". And so she, and so I got through the
19 first accreditation. But I had to have... They'd never have, they'd never had a lab
20 at St. Peters School of Nursing. Anatomy lab, micro lab, nothing in lab. They
21 did have a fine nutrition set up and they had a fine chemistry set up, but not a
22 desk or anything for microbiology or anatomy or... So, I was supposed to get a

1 certain number of hours of anatomy lab in. Well I'd had plenty of it in college
2 you know. But, nobody had no money. So, I called my friends at the slaughter
3 house, and I said, "Can you help me out? I've got to show them something with
4 meat", you know. And so, what they did, one of the things they did was they sent
5 me a pregnant cow's uterus. It was a darling calf. Oh well, it wasn't quite
6 developed, under developed. But I tell you, that was quite a sensation. And I
7 didn't have any place to put it. But about that

8 **Tape Counter 595**

9 time was a war surplus phase and the men periodically went out to the Fort and
10 got big stainless steel dish pans. Well, they didn't need them all in the hospital,
11 so I got... I had a store room, so I got them in the School of Nursing. And, so
12 well, I put it in one of those dish pans. Well, I put it on them. Well then, I put
13 two chairs together and gathered the class around me and I got a veterinary book
14 I guess from the library, because I can remember what I told them about the
15 attachments you know. Where the (?) replaced the uterus, uterine attach, placenta
16 attachment and all that. And, well we, we had a great class. I demonstrated and
17 there were oohs and ah's. And the calf was so cute, I thought, "Gee, I can't throw
18 this away". So I got an empty mayonnaise jar from the kitchen, washed it up and
19 the calf just fit in there. And I made a Formalin solution in the lab - I knew how
20 to do that. And we kept it for years and we used it for demonstration. And then
21 I used to get the uh, you know they weren't so tough about what you did with the
22 fetus then either. And so, I had a friend in the OB department and I said, "Would

1 you save me any miscarriages?" And so I got some more jars and preserved...

2 I had quite a line up of you know.

3 *Smith: Various weeks of development.*

4 Cabrini: Yeah. You know when I taught OB, then I could... You know, this is... So we
5 had a makeshift lab and pretty good, well...

6 *Smith: Yeah, very inventive Sister.*

7 Cabrini: And well, uh let me see. I kind of jumped the gun there. Because I had, I was
8 at the school, three year school for awhile, and then they decided to send Sister
9 Carmelina back because she had somebody else with a degree who could teach the
10 classes. So then I got sent on to Vancouver, St. Joseph's School of Nursing.
11 They did have a good medical nursing teacher, but they had no science. And
12 what they did, the woman, who handled the class, would take her students over
13 to Providence Academy for chemistry. Imagine taking a whole class, wasting all
14 that time. Well, I said yeah, that's a lot of waste of time. And so I was in, on
15 good terms with the chemistry teacher over at the Academy, and I said, "You
16 know, I've got cupboards here and I can get little jars and so forth. I know how
17 to mark chemicals. And so, without anything to put them. I had a nice big room,
18 but nothing to put it on, because they'd never had a lab

19 **Tape Counter 659**

20 there before. See, the State was clamping down. And so, I said, "Well, I've got
21 to uh... Well, the Sister and the Director of Nurses there says, "You're my, you're
22 my Clark College, because they always sent their students over to Clark College,

1 and a waste of time, you know. And, well uh nothing but a bare room, but
2 Bunsen burners though.

3 *Smith: Well, that helped.*

4 Cabrini: So, about that time, they decided to uh let's see... Oh, they a new big table, you
5 know out of the laundry, there has to be a nice big table to...

6 *Smith: For folding, a folding table?*

7 Cabrini: Yeah. Well, they decided to get a new table down in the laundry. Then they had
8 this nice big table, clumsy but it's just in good shape. And so I said, "Oh, well
9 let me have it. I'll use it and make it for my chemistry, my lab, animal lab,
10 whatnot lab". And so I got the, got it up. It was a big clumsy table, it was the
11 length of this room. And I got some of that rubber sheeting to put on it you
12 know, so I wouldn't spoil it, a little worried about the varnish. And, well I was
13 in heaven there. I got the, I knew how to talk to the pathologist. And so, they
14 had no specimens and no money to buy any specimens. So I said, "Well, you
15 know". When I had my anatomy lab with the heart, I went to the pathologist.
16 And, of course, he did the autopsies, and so I said, "You know, I need a heart.
17 I'm teaching about the heart and I'd like to have a heart. You know one of those
18 spiral, all those?"

19 *Smith: Uh huh.*

20 Cabrini: And he just, he made a book for me, with hearts.

21 *Smith: Oh my.*

1 Cabrini: And I could just open it up, and I'd say look at, there's the capillary muscle and
2 now you put your finger on it. There's the chordae tendinea, and put your finger
3 on it.

4 *Smith: Wonderful.*

5 Cabrini: It was beautiful. And then I preserved them too in mayonnaise jars. And then,
6 let's see what else was it? Oh yeah the... Oh the brain, the same way. You
7 know, he was very agreeable. He got all the parts of the brain, you know just
8 beautifully. You know, you don't get to see that in an ordinary lab.

9 **Tape Counter 719**

10 Cabrini: Then I got... I don't know whether they were still doing the AZ test or not for
11 pregnancy. Well anyway, they used to inject the rabbit with something out of
12 some bladders I think. Urine, I guess it was, from the patient.

13 *Smith: I don't think they do that any more.*

14 Cabrini: And then, if a certain part of it got bloody, well, well I got the AZ rabbits. Of
15 course, they weren't preserved so, so I had to work fast on them. But they were
16 good little animal specimens you know.

17 *Smith: Yeah, if the rabbit died, you were pregnant, wasn't that it?*

18 Cabrini: Well, the rabbit was always good whether it was positive or not. I got in trouble
19 there, because I put something in the refrigerator. It wasn't the best idea. Well
20 anyway, I had a line up of jars of these good specimens, and that was my... Oh
21 and there was one typewriter, believe it or not. There was a School of Nursing
22 which was a separate building in the hospital. Well, the secretary for the hospital

1 had to use the same typewriter as the School of Nursing. And I tell you, things
2 were kind of rough. I didn't get the typewriter until in the evening to type up my
3 lessons. And I was a beginning teacher. I had to be pretty specific you know and
4 I had to have an outline. So I typed after the evening.

5 *Smith: One typewriter for both the...?*

6 *Cabrini: Yeah. You know, when you think about what we've got today...*

7 *Smith: All the computers, we have computers everywhere today.*

8 *Cabrini: Oh. Well, I did that for about two years. Well, I taught the VD too. I had a*
9 *projector and I used to get slides, but they probably have something better now.*
10 *But, they had good movies of VD, venereal diseases. Some of those pictures were*
11 *just very real you know, realistic. And so, I had to teach it, and I got the pictures*
12 *and...*

13 *Smith: So you taught chemistry and anatomy and VD?*

14 **Tape Counter 781**

15 **End of Tape 2, Side 1**

16 *Cabrini: Oh yeah, and materia medicatoo, I think. I did teach materia medica, but I can't*
17 *remember whether it was there or not. Then, they just after a couple of years of*
18 *that, they decided they'd close St. Joseph's School of Nursing and I was sent to*
19 *Walla Walla. So, I had all these specimens in jars, cadaver and all. And I said,*
20 *"I might want to get these over, I can't teach if I don't have my specimens." So*
21 *I thought how will I get these over to Walla Walla from Vancouver? And, Mr.*
22 *Marshall came in and his sister was one of the Sisters, and he had a big Cadillac*

1 you know and he'd take the Sisters around once in awhile. He came to my rescue
2 and he says, "We'll take those across the desert". And so, we went across that
3 desert with all those jars in his trunk, the cadavers, at 100 miles an hour. I looked
4 at the speedometer, he liked to speed too. So, I got to Walla Walla, St. Mary's.

5 *Smith: With all the jars intact?*

6 *Cabrini:* Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. In no, no lab there. Well, you know, it was the new thing.
7 It wasn't new, but it was enforced. And so, then I was luck too. I did have space.
8 Didn't have any Bunsen burners there. I got in good with the engineer, and they
9 decided to put new tables in the cafeteria. They had all those old, big strong
10 clumsy ones. So, I got some of them and went down and set up the lab again.
11 And the projector didn't work, and the Nuns all said it's just you know, no good.
12 And I said, "Well, why don't you take it out and have it..." "Well, we did", and
13 the man said it was, you know. And I said, "Well, I think it's dirty and I think
14 that's all it's trouble is". Then I heard about a volunteer for hobby about a block
15 from the hospital. He did projectors just for the fun of it. So, I got in contact
16 with him and took, I hauled that projector down to his house about a block away.
17 And so, he says, "It's dirty, I'll clean it up". It worked fine. So, I could get my
18 stuff from the State again. And I used to draw charts too, it was great, and I liked
19 it. I liked Anthony Anatomy. It was very picturesque and down to earth. So
20 that, you know, no use being too complicated for the first round.

21 *Smith: Right. If they want more they can go to the University.*

1 Cabrini: Well, that's what I figured. And in chemistry, I got the chemicals by the jar. But
2 then, Walla Walla that was... And I taught there for about an academic year and
3 then they decided to close Walla Walla. Then, I was sent over

4 **Tape Counter 033**

5 to St. Peters. That's, that's the way it worked. And that's when I was supposed
6 to set up the School of Practical Nursing out of the blue.

7 *Smith: Sounds like you just went around closing nursing schools here Sister, Vancouver,*
8 *Walla Walla, St. Peters.*

9 Cabrini: ...and the doctors in Olympia were in an uproar, and well anyway, they got that
10 school closed. And we, I started the, we got the three year school closed and I
11 graduated the last class and uh, I don't know if I told you... But anyway, I had
12 two classes to graduate that one year. And of course, the RN's kind of looked
13 down on nurses on the RN's, I mean on the LPN's. And, we fought the battle of
14 whether or not they could wear caps, whether they could, whether you could use
15 the term cc when you were teaching LPN's about medications. You weren't
16 supposed to, you could use drops and teaspoons and household measures. Oh,
17 I remember going to the - what was that organization, ANA, WS...?

18 *Smith: WSNA, the Washington State Nurses Association?*

19 Cabrini: It was, I don't remember whether they called it that or not, but we had meetings
20 anyway.

21 *Smith: About cc's?*

1 Cabrini: About whether or not you could teach... I remember one battle on medications,
2 whether you'd say anything but drops and teaspoons to LPN's. And then we had
3 another battle on whether or not they could wear caps. And when I think of the
4 stupid things that nurses fought about...

5 *Smith: Yes.*

6 Cabrini: ...now, nobody pays any attention to any of it.

7 *Smith: Nobody wears a cap.*

8 Cabrini: And the LPN's are giving the medications and running the nursing homes.

9 *Smith: That's right, and they'd better know about cc's.*

10 **Tape Counter 058**

11 Cabrini: They'd better, yeah. Yeah. But that's, oh times have changed a lot. Well, we
12 went through that. I made friends with the executive secretary of the Washington
13 State Board of Practical Nursing too, Grace Cameron. And she was a big help to
14 me too. Well, there weren't any hospital schools. And I didn't want to go get the
15 outline for the School of Practical Nursing from the vocation school, so I went to
16 see - I think it was in Centralia. I talked to the RN down there who ran the
17 school. And I got kind of a general idea of what I was supposed to do. And they
18 didn't have any minimum requirements for schools of practical nursing in the State
19 of Washington until that law came in 1950, '49-'50. And, as I started to say, I
20 wrote that booklet because you know, I was in on the ground floor. I worked
21 with nurse aides during the World War at Providence Hospital, and some of those
22 nurse aides were really very knowledgeable. Well when the war was over, there

1 was still a shortage of nurses, and we, we had these good nurse aides around, but
2 they were nothing you know. You'd hire them and they'd tromp around and take
3 care of the patients like good fellows, but they didn't really have any status. Why
4 and you'd get some knows this and some knows that and so, you know. But
5 anyway, they set up the minimum requirements for the State of Washington. I
6 think they had it around the United States, more or less, some states. But
7 Washington got its recognition in about, in 1949-50. These good nurse aides, some
8 of them until 1950 I think it was, they could come in and be LPN's under the
9 waiver period. But after that, they had to have a course. There were certain
10 minimum requirements for the waiver.

11 *Smith: Right.*

12 *Cabrini:* But, like a couple of nurses had to okay you and a couple of doctors had to okay
13 you, and you had to have some organized classes, but it was very nebulous. When
14 those minimum requirements came in, well I had kind of a pattern, but to me that
15 wasn't enough really, of what we expected of them. So I organized my own sort
16 of minimum requirements. I should have given you a copy of that too, but I don't
17 think I have it listed really. I think it must be in archives, but it's kind of
18 nebulous.

19 *Smith: I don't remember seeing that.*

20 *Cabrini:* The only thing I could probably do is if they would let me, mimeograph the
21 transcript.

22 **Tape Counter 103**

1 *Smith:* *You could white, you could white out, you could mark out a name or cover up a*
2 *name.*

3 *Cabrini:* *You know, I might be able to do that, because I did. When I sent all of those*
4 *records to the statehouse, I know sometimes you get some nice recycled morons*
5 *who clean things out sometimes. And, their judgment isn't just... I've heard of*
6 *x-rays getting lost... And then somebody wanted to compare them...*

7 *Smith:* *Right.*

8 *Cabrini:* *And so, I did, I think I did keep myself a set of the LPN records, you know*
9 *block out the...*

10 *Smith:* *Block out the names. Because that would be nice to show what the requirements*
11 *were...for the school.*

12 *Cabrini:* *Yeah, we had a good transcript, I thought it was a good transcript. It was well*
13 *organized. But, I had to send the whole bunch when I closed the schools; all the*
14 *professional records to the State and all the Practical Nurse records to the State.*
15 *I had a good housemother, who could type, who helped me a lot with the typing.*

16 *Smith:* *That's good.*

17 *Cabrini:* *Because it was very tedious doing all of that. And, for a long time until I came*
18 *here I think it was, I would send out (if a nurse wanted to, if an LPN wanted to*
19 *go on to school), I could send her a record. And I had the official stamp. And,*
20 *then when I got sick and didn't know whether I'd live or die, I turned all of that*
21 *in to the archives. And Sister Carmelina did say that, I mean Sister Bergamini did*
22 *say that I had given the best outline of schools in nursing of any school. And I*

1 felt that every school should at least turn in that much. You know, for the history
2 of the thing. Well anyway, I closed the School of Nursing, the three year school.
3 And that was a terrible time, you know, because the doctors were unhappy and the
4 two graduations that year. And I thought, well now maybe, maybe the
5 professional nurses would do something to accept, show they were professionals,
6 know they were ready. So, we

7 **Tape Counter 140**

8 went on and we had... Oh, we didn't have a place to have graduation in St. Peters.
9 And that was one thing, I always had to be sure that I got Garfield School, which
10 was several blocks away engaged for that particular night, before I got all of the
11 announcements and all that, that goes with graduation. And I guess I was noted
12 for organizing, because I remember ... You had to build up a program, and I
13 really small tooth combed it. And I remember one of them told me that, he says
14 I've never been in anything where everything was that organized.

15 *Smith: And did you have, you had capping ceremonies too? For the LPN's?*

16 *Cabrini: We had capping for the LPN's, contrary to what the RN's -well they accepted that.
17 Well, because they had a definite cap that... I had saw to it that they had a blue
18 edge on it that said "LPN" or was it... Let's see, it was Student Practical Nurse
19 for awhile and then it was LPN, Licensed Practical Nurse I think. I can't
20 remember exactly, you know. It's a long time. A lot of water's gone over the
21 bridge. Well...*

22 *Smith: And did you have a dormitory? Did they live on campus?*

1 Cabrini: Oh yes. I must tell you... You know, if you'll go over to the old hospital, the low
2 cost housing place, that whole second building - it was built during the war - and
3 that whole second building, the annex it probably called. And I think it, I think
4 it has its general form, you know. And oh, that whole thing was school of
5 nursing.

6 *Smith: Oh okay. I've just driven by the one side. I've never really you know, gone*
7 *around the whole thing, so...*

8 Cabrini: Out in front of it. We had a picture of Saint, I mean a statute of St. Joseph, the
9 one that's standing out by the hospital now. That was standing out on the front
10 lawn...

11 *Smith: Oh, by the nursing school.*

12 **Tape Counter 169**

13 Cabrini: ...of the old hospital. And, oh the nurses, there are more clusters of nurses have
14 had their picture taken around St. Peter. Well, that's St. Joseph. And, let's see...
15 Well, after the three year nurses all graduated... I don't think there
16 are any left working there now. I knew of a couple of them, but I think they, had
17 several heart attacks and strokes. It was a long time ago, you know.

18 *Smith: The last graduating class was '53, was that?*

19 Cabrini: Let's see, the last student finished in '55 I think. And I'm very particular about
20 saying that... I know they wrote it up during the Centennial, they wrote it up '54
21 if I remember correctly. And I was very adamant about it, because it was '55 and

1 if it was '54, the last ones who graduated did not graduate from an accredited
2 school. And that was very important, maybe it isn't any more.

3 *Smith: Well, yes. It's still important.*

4 Cabrini: Well they, they have their licenses and they have what goes with it nowadays,
5 but... I could pin it down and I wanted to be sure that was... But you know
6 some of these people don't quote you quite exactly, in Yakima.

7 *Smith: Yes, so, it was 1955?*

8 Cabrini: Yes. It says in that folder there, haven't you? Yeah, I was going to give you a
9 folder. Let's see... No, this is it.

10 *Smith: Yeah, this is the practical nurses. They started in 1954.*

11 Cabrini: The last professional graduation was August the 12th, 1955, at 8:00 p.m. Garfield
12 School Auditorium and Dr. L.A. Campbell... Oh, I meant to tell you about Dr.
13 Campbell. He was oh, he was, he was the greatest doctor for the student nurses.
14 And he presided as Program Chairman for the 26th time.

15 *Smith: Twenty-six graduating classes. That's a lot to preside in.*

16 **Tape Counter 206**

17 Cabrini: Yeah. It was, it was just understood. In, oh well, Dr. L.A. Campbell presided as
18 Program Chairman for the 26th. In recognition of his many years of interest in
19 the students, he was awarded the diploma presented by Miss Eileen Norton who
20 was the class President. It was signed by Dr. Burkhart, Sister Barbara Ellen,
21 Sister Elizabeth Claire, and Sister Mary Cabrini. They had the, oh, he was just
22 the daddy to the school. They were so dear to us. He was neat. Well, I can't say

1 anything against any of those doctors. The students didn't need to worry. I
2 could call anybody, doctor,..... She was a female doctor, the first one that
3 happened in Olympia. Can't think of her name right now. Anyway, she was very
4 good to the students too. But, I didn't have to worry about health care,

5 *Smith:* *So, you didn't have to worry about carrying insurance for them, or...?*

6 *Cabrini:* Well, I don't know. The hospital took care of whatever... You know, in those
7 days you didn't worry about all that sort of thing. Uh, people just kind of took
8 care of each other. You know, I listen to all the bellyaching about health care for
9 kids. I never had a doctor when I was a kid, except to have my tonsils out and
10 once in awhile something special. My mother took care of me. And I have some
11 scars on me now that my mother, my mother just washed them out. And I don't
12 know whether she used turpentine or not, or know if she used bag balm, I don't
13 know if she did that. Vaseline was good and she didn't have sterile gauze, she'd
14 tear up a dishtowel. And, and we didn't have fancy dishtowels, they were flour
15 sacks or sugar sacks. And my mother took care of me - measles, all of that stuff,
16 and my sister too. We went through the flu and everything. She just had those
17 old fashioned remedies that put you to bed, and steam and... I remember one
18 time, we had a doctor. I had an abscess on my thigh and you didn't go to the
19 hospital for that. The doctor came to the house and I stayed in my bed and he
20 operated. And my mother took care of it. And, I think if kids had mothers in
21 families nowadays, maybe health care wouldn't be such a big worry.

22 *Smith:* *Yeah. nor all the violence that we're worried about.*

1 Cabrine: The shooting and all of that. I remember I was, when I was a little kid, I'd watch
2 my Dad chop wood. And it was, "Don't you dare touch that axe". Well of
3 course, right then...

4 **Tape Counter 251**

5 *Smith: You had to do it.*

6 Cabrine: Right. And it was too big for me to handle and I stuck it in me. Oh, I can still
7 see that fat coming out, oh. Well she said, "Shut up", cleaned that up and put a
8 bandage on it and... We just, we didn't have the facilities. I don't think we ever
9 had a piece of tape. We just wrapped it around. And I, I've lived to be 84 or
10 almost.

11 *Smith: So, something worked okay.*

12 Cabrine: Something must have. I think we did get immunizations when they came around,
13 I don't remember too much about immunizations as a kid.

14 *Smith: Do you remember any of your family going to the hospital?*

15 Cabrine: There wasn't, in Apache there wasn't a hospital of course. And, well then when
16 we moved to Yakima, we didn't go to the hospital unless you were dying of
17 cancer or something.

18 *Smith: Babies were born at home?*

19 Cabrine: Well, my mother used to get calls once in awhile to go take care of a baby that
20 was getting born. And when I was in OB as a student, I found out where they
21 came from too, when the doctor didn't show up and I was the one scrubbed up.
22 Oh, well, that was in Yakima. We had a doctor, an Adventist doctor. And I

1 guess he didn't believe in cutting, only when he had to. Not for OB's anyway.
2 I used to watch his technique. You know, we were assigned three months to OB?
3 And I watched his technique and he never cut. But, what he did was take a lot
4 of patience and a lot of time, and he took KY ointment. I don't know whether
5 you can use that anymore, but he massaged the peritoneal, massaged it and
6 massaged it, and massaged it.... Well, one night I was scrubbed up and well we
7 had a circulating nurse and that was all. And, there was I as a student, setting up
8 the peritoneum, scrubbed up. Well the doctor didn't come and he didn't come and
9 he didn't come. And so I thought, gosh I've got to help her and so I started
10 massaging the peritoneal. And finally, after I had delivered the baby, it was a big
11 baby. Anyway, I think it was 9 pound, 14 ounces or something like that. And,
12 the doctor, I can still see

13 **Tape Counter 293**

14 the doctor appearing on the scene and I had the baby and it still had the cord you
15 know attached, but the baby was out. It was out, very little tearing. He was
16 Catholic though, but I used the Adventist's technique. So well, let's see... We
17 closed the school of nursing and that was heartbreaking, I couldn't find a teacher
18 to help me with my School of Practical Nursing and so I was desperate. Class
19 coming in and no teacher. You were also the director of the nurses. I mean, you
20 hired and, saw to, the nursing service and the nursing education. And I knew the
21 nurses and their capabilities pretty well on the floor. And, I didn't have a teacher.
22 The one that I had, I said, "I'll close the school before I'll have her again", so I

1 looked them all over and I saw one Canadian nurse. I worked with her a lot and
2 Netty and I knew she could organize and type and do that sort of thing too.
3 Besides, she was a good mother. So I went after her and I says, "You know, I
4 think you might make a good teacher. I need an instructor". "Ohhhh, I'm just a
5 three year RN from Canada", and I said, "Well, okay think about it". So I kept
6 after her periodically and finally I said, "You know, I still have all my notes from
7 the Dean from the University of Washington". I took a course in teaching in
8 schools of nursing and I took all of my notes and I had a good deal of practice
9 teaching too, and I says, "I still have my notes and I'll let you use them". Finally,
10 she gave in. She stayed with me 10 years. I had a certificate from the college,
11 community college, because I was chairman for 10 years for the nursing
12 committee. After we closed our school, they were going to start a School of
13 Practical Nursing at the Olympia Vocational Technical School at that time. And
14 Ethyl was just a plain RN, with a good head. And, so they grabbed her up before
15 I was even through with her at St. Peters. So then, she said, "Well, I'm going to
16 work over there. They want me to teach their school, their program, because they
17 don't have a teacher, instructor". And, so then, she got me hooked in, we had to
18 have a committee on the Schools of Nursing and then we were progressing to the
19 collegiate in Olympia. And so, I was chairman of that committee for 10 years.
20 And so, the Dean decided that I needed a certificate, so he gave me one. And by
21 that time, they were going into the collegiate program. And I was in favor of it.

1 I said, "You know, if you're going to give LPN's credit for what they've got, that's
2 fine with me". I'm all for

3 **Tape Counter 352**

4 collegiate. But, if you're just going to ignore the LPN's and make them start from
5 scratch, I'm not for it. Because they had some pretty good classes, and they aren't
6 boneheads.

7 *Smith: Was this at South Puget Sound Community College?*

8 *Cabrini:* Well see, it was a trade school, Olympia Vocational Technical School. And those
9 were the days when the Union, they gradually progressed to a collegiate status.
10 We'd have these committee meetings, where the horse shoeing (I can't think of the
11 word for horse shoeing), but there was a fellow who was head of the horse
12 shoeing committee. And then somebody else and somebody else, and I was
13 nursing. And usually, I always refused to be a chairman.

14 *Smith: Uh huh. And that program is still going strong.*

15 *Cabrini:* Yeah, oh yeah. It's progressed tremendously. And one of the teachers (she writes
16 to me, but I can't think of her name), one of the teachers that Ethyl, my instructor
17 sort of broke in to help her, went on to school and got her degree and she's still
18 teaching at the Community College. So...

19 *Smith: So, the change still goes on.*

20 *Cabrini:* The change goes on, yeah. And so, I hope they're fair about accepting. I've heard
21 of students, I mean RN, not LPN's, going down there and standing at 6:00 o'clock
22 in the morning to get to the admitting desk before somebody else. And I heard

1 that they were kind of favoring those on relief, and I said, "I don't think that's
2 quite fair". I thought you should get in for what you're worth, not because you're
3 on relief.

4 *Smith: It's a very competitive program, because they had so many applicants.*

5 Cabrini: That's what they have now. It didn't used to be that way, it started out with not
6 so many. But it's gotten quite popular, I guess from what I hear. She still writes
7 to me. The one that Ethyl broke in, but it's pretty good. Ethyl stayed with them
8 10 years and she had a choice. The State (they're working for the State),she was
9 50 years old then. And she had a choice of taking the pension and retiring at 50,
10 or going on. Of course, she'd had to get more education. But gee's Louise, she
11 might as well retire. And I just, and she's into what's that sport on ice? You use
12 a broom, and it's...

13 **Tape Counter 400**

14 *Smith: Oh, ice, is that ice hockey?*

15 Cabrini: No, no. Something Canadian. I've watched them on the TV, but I can't think of
16 what it is now. But she and her husband were both into that. And he had a print
17 shop, which was very successful and they were getting into computers and all of
18 that. And so he was retired. So they both retired. And well, they're living the
19 life of Raleigh now. They went back, they kept their Canadian health care,
20 Canadian what do you call it?

21 *Smith: Citizenship.*

22 Cabrini: Citizenship. And so, they kept their health care, so now that...

1 *Smith:* *Did they move back to Canada?*

2 Cabrini: Uh huh. Well, that's where the sports are. They have two daughters that live in
3 Olympia that we used to baby-sit. And one of them, well, Ethyl will get a call
4 maybe. She'd get to work at 7:00 and then she'd get a call at about 8:00 - Leona
5 is ill. So, she'd go home and get Leona, bring her in. I'd put her to bed in one
6 of the empty rooms and we'd take care of Leona. So, I guess I impressed Leona
7 some. Anyway, she asked me to be at her wedding, and I was to give the talk.
8

9 *Smith:* *Oh, very nice.*

10 Cabrini: After we closed the school,... We had all this stuff, you know. We moved all the
11 old bedside tables and what not down in the big store room. Oh, the big store
12 room is something else now of course. And, bedside tables and beds and
13 everything. And they, the Sisters didn't have a place to live out at the new
14 hospital.

15 *Smith:* *The new one now, on Lilly Road.*

16 Cabrini: But they did tell us that whatever proceeds we got from the furniture and stuff that
17 we sold, we could have it toward our building. And so, I stayed about...
18 Unofficially, I stayed in that after everybody moved all the good stuff out. The
19 stuff they were going to turn over to auctioneer from that place, and some other
20 things too was going to be auctioned off. So I stayed there for awhile, a couple
21 of weeks,... Well, the engineer stayed as kind of a caretaker awhile. And he was
22 real good, we were good partners. And so I sold a

1 **Tape Counter 449**

2 lot of the old stuff. About that, about the time they were closing the new, that
3 hospital, that building, they all got new bedside tables, of course. And, the
4 bedside tables were just junk. Nobody knew what to do with them. But about
5 that time, the State said well all the nursing homes get bedside tables for all your
6 patients. So I was open for business. And I said, "Well, gee, you know, I'll bet
7 some of these nursing homes would like some of this stuff. So I called the
8 nursing home owners, you know around the area, and I said, "I think I've got a
9 bargain for you". So they came in and they bought them by the dozen, you know
10 those old bedside tables?

11 *Smith:* *Yes.*

12 *Cabrini:* Just a bunch of junk, \$5 a piece. And I remember too, there was a beautiful
13 stainless steel sink in the kitchen. And I always like to do good with things when
14 it's possible. I heard that the boy scouts wanted a sink for their camp, and so I
15 found out who to call. And I called and I says, "You know, if you could get in
16 here and get that sink out, but you've got to take it all out and disconnect it and
17 all that". And I said you can have it for, I think it was \$60. And they said,
18 "Well, we can't get there until Monday. We can't get a truck". And I said, "Well
19 you better, the auctioneer's coming, you'd better get here, or you lose it". Boy,
20 they got in there early Saturday morning and took that sink out. A few deals like
21 that. But I had a friend down the way, Anna Sheek. She was a wonderful

1 housemother and a good pal. She lived about two miles from the hospital. She
2 put me up for the night so I didn't have to sleep alone at the hospital.

3 *Smith:* *So that's when they closed the LPN program, is when they moved to the newest*
4 *hospital, and they've never revived that?*

5 Cabrini: Oh no, no that's uh... Well, the picture, the whole picture changed, you know,
6 with the college taking over and coming in and growing. Well, let's see, then I
7 got out to the new hospital after awhile. And they asked me to go into Pastoral
8 Care, asked me to visit patients. And, "Oh yeah, sure, I can do that". You know,
9 nuns do that all the time. And I always liked nights. I liked swing and
10 graveyard. And so, first it started out as Sister

11 **Tape Counter 501**

12 Visitor, and well you didn't have to have all that organized class stuff, to be
13 prepared for it. So I did that for a while, then I decided to set the thing up and
14 they decided that I should have a organized course and so I went to Portland for
15 that, at Providence. And that was interesting. I don't know whether I became a
16 better Pastoral person, because you know, Nuns work nights. You hear a lot of
17 confessions, and...

18 *Smith:* *Yes. I'm sure it's something that's already in the heart, whether you're class helps*
19 *or not.*

20 Cabrini: I think so. Anyway, I got acquainted with a lot of people there. Well, I guess I
21 went out in '71, must have been January of '71. Because I had... There was one
22 student who was making up a few days, and I had to just make them tow the line.

1 You know, I didn't give. I just, we've got to fill the bill. I can't pretend. And so,
2 she spent about 15 days out at the new hospital, and then she...

3 *Smith: So, there was a nursing student at the new hospital.*

4 Cabrini: Then she got out of class, her certificate and all that. I did Pastoral Care and
5 then, until full time until about '75, 1975 I think. I never had anything wrong
6 with me. And then all of a sudden, one afternoon I was fixed to go on duty that
7 evening. I had a pain in my arm, and I thought I had the "crud". It was just like
8 diarrhea and vomiting, but this ache in my arm. So, I was supposed to go on duty
9 that evening and I hated to let anybody down on Sunday, you know. So anyway,
10 about 7:00, I said, "You know, I don't think I can stand to sleep with that arm".
11 So, they took me over to emergency, and they says, "Well, who's your doctor?"
12 And I says "Well, I don't have any doctor, I never get sick". Well, so and so's
13 doctor... Oh, what was the name of him? Uh, anyway, he's a very good doctor.
14 And he was one, when he came to town, he didn't have any practice. Whenever
15 I heard of anybody needing a doctor - I'd say you know, there's doctor so and so,
16 and...

17 *Smith: He needs patients.*

18 Cabrini: ...I think he can take you on. And so, well anyway, he happened to be the one
19 that was on call in emergency. And they said, "Well, would so and so do?", and
20 I said, "Oh, I hate to bother him, he's so busy nowadays". And they said, "Well,
21 he's on call. It's alright, he'll

22 **Tape Counter 565**

1 come". So he came and then they said, "Who's your cardiac specialist?" "Cardiac
2 specialist? I never, I don't know any of them". And they says, "Well, Dr. so and
3 so is on duty". He has the same name as the pediatrician. And I always forget
4 what it is. And I said, "Well, I guess he's as good as any, I don't know". Because
5 I, I thought it was a joke, you know. They wheeled me down to coronary care
6 and put me to bed, and I really wasn't showing any other symptoms. I heard them
7 talking about the man in the room next, and he was in bad shape. And so, I was
8 thinking about him. They gave me, they had to give me an IV of morphine and
9 that was the only pain.

10 *Smith: No chest pain?*

11 Cabrini: No, not a thing, not a symptom at all. Well, I should have known better, because
12 I know a man who had a pain in the hip, came in one Sunday morning and died
13 by noon and that's all he... But I never thought it could happen to me. Well
14 anyway, I went to sleep. Later on the nurse called. She said, "Sister Cabrini,
15 Sister Cabrini. You almost left us". And I said, "Well, did I make a nice straight
16 line on the monitor?" The first thing I thought about, well let's back up on this.
17 And she says, "Yes, you did". And I said, "Well, what time is it?" 3:19. I was
18 told afterwards. The team had been in, the blue team and I didn't even know
19 about it.

20 *Smith: Sometimes it's better that way Sister.*

21 Cabrini: I was vaguely aware of a commotion and what passed through my head was I
22 guess that fellow went bad.

1 *Smith: Yeah, because you were still thinking of the guy next door.*

2 Cabrini: Yeah. I didn't have the nerve to ask what doctor came in or if a doctor came in,
3 or if they just blue teamed it. A doctor always comes I guess, but then later on,
4 I got curious. The nurse said, "You know, that's the doctor that came for that blue
5 team". I hardly even knew him. You know when you don't work with them, you
6 don't feel like you know them that well. And in Pastoral Care, you didn't
7 always... Well anyway, I was in for a rest(?) cure, that was in '71, 10 days - rest
8 cure. Then I got sent up here for more rest, for a month. I had a sheet of paper
9 of what to do.

10 **Tape Counter 632**

11 You know, how fast to walk and so forth. And, boy I sure did that, because I
12 wanted to get going. And, I was here a month and when I look back now, I think
13 how stupid that was. It was during that cold spell, and cars just weren't going
14 south. And, I had an appointment with a doctor, it was close to Thanksgiving.
15 And I had an appointment for the 28th with the doctor. Anyway, I was bound and
16 determined. So I, thought I was doing fine, but no car and no transportation. So,
17 I happened to call a friend and told my story, and called Bill. And he says, "Oh,
18 I can get you there". And I said, "Well, I don't want to get you in a snow storm,
19 you know". And so, I says, "Well, I'll call you at 8:00 tomorrow morning and
20 we'll see what the weatherman says". Well, it seemed to be all clear and we had
21 a lot of courage. And so anyway, he and his wife came and the Nuns were at
22 Mass. They hadn't eaten breakfast and I hadn't, I forgot to eat breakfast. And uh,

1 so we cooked breakfast while the Nuns were having Mass, and we listened to
2 Mass. We got up to the Communion and then 11:00, and we said we better get
3 going. And so we went, and we made it to Olympia in an hour.

4 *Smith:* *That's good driving.*

5 *Cabrini:* He was a good driver. And we saw cars hanging by the rim, I don't know how
6 they got up there, on the banks you know. Cars, I don't know how they got there.
7 But anyway, we got back to Olympia and I showed them around the hospital a
8 little bit. And we went up, we missed the Communion so I gave them
9 communion minister's wife Communion. And uh, then I said, "Well, let's have
10 dinner". So, we ate. And, "Well, you'd better start back". So, they made it back
11 in an hour. I called them to check to see if they got home safely. Well that went
12 fine. I thought I was doing great. And uh, I was on a special diet and all that.
13 And that's well, I felt good. And then, 'lo and behold, Thanksgiving morning, I
14 fell into a V-tach.

15 *Smith:* *Oh.*

16 *Cabrini:* I felt funny. Sister Tracy and I were alone, and she was going to take care of the
17 Mass. And then I said, "Sister, I think I'll just sit here. I don't feel too sharp. I
18 think I'll sit and wait until this passes over". She says uh, she looked at me and
19 she says, "I'm calling 911". And I says, "Oh, they make such a mess ", and so
20 they ripped my clothes off me and zap... I says, "You're not going to zap me
21 again, are you?" And he says, "Yes".

22 **Tape Counter 701**

1 *Smith:* *Oh, you were conscious...*

2 Cabrini: Yeah, I was conscious.

3 *Smith:* *And they were zapping you.*

4 Cabrini: And so, it was so cold you know. I was shivering and I think and it was from the
5 cold, because it was so cold at that time. And I says, "Put a blanket on me, I am
6 so cold". He wouldn't pay any attention to me. He just went on about his
7 business at zapping and tearing my clothes off and zapping. Well anyway, I didn't
8 get a blanket on until I got into emergency. And I said to the nurse, I says, "You
9 have got to treat me for hypothermia". I was still shaking. Dear little Hope, dear
10 Hope, the Nun. She says they took my temperature and it was 94, I think. And
11 so, Hope says, "Well, I'll get you some warm blankets and you'll warm up". And
12 so, the dear little heart, she went out and got me some nice warm blankets. And
13 back to CCU. And uh, that's another 10 days. They were starting that cardiac
14 rehab thing?

15 *Smith:* *Uh huh.*

16 Cabrini: And I said, "Doctor you know, I'd like to try that cardiac rehab". Everybody was
17 sent back up here for a rest cure again, probably stayed here. And I wasn't ready
18 for that. And uh, so he says, "Sure Sister". So, they let me do that cardiac rehab.
19 And I told the Sisters we have muscles for everything from cooking to sex. And
20 uh, we gradually worked on the trapeze and bicycle and all of that stuff. And uh,
21 weight-lifting and all that.

22 *Smith:* *Yeah, that's a good program, it's a real good program.*

1 Cabrini: I tell people because, and then I got the certificate and the red sweater and
2 sweatshirt and all that. And then, Georgiette, Sister Georgiette, she didn't want
3 me to go back to work. But finally, she let me go back - I could work weekends.
4 They didn't have anybody to work weekends. Nobody would take it. Swing shift
5 weekends. I liked that. You know, somehow you get in touch with the patients
6 that you don't get other times. And, so I did that for quite awhile. I did a lot of
7 volunteering. I never got credit for it. It wasn't official. I got two hours, I got
8 paid for two days of the week And then, I had time to write up the School of
9 Nursing, what I didn't get

10 **Tape Counter 763**

11 done when I was busy with the school. And I was able to get all of that stuff, and
12 round up pictures and so... I did the photograph album and during my spare time.
13 And then I always visit some patients too. If I know a lot of patients or if people
14 seem to know me, well that's... I went to visit patients in the evening, and I
15 worked with the Pastoral Care staff, you know.

16 *Smith: So, the heart attacks were in 1977?*

17 Cabrini: They started with I think it was 1975. And then I had a second one.

18 *Smith: It was the same year you had the second one.*

19 Cabrini: And, oh yeah, I may tell you... Back up a bit, but I was in my 60s, I'll tell you
20 my philosophy. Do what you can for yourself.

21 **Tape Counter 789**

22 **End of Tape 2, Side 2**